

Board to Try Policemen in Beating Case

Officers Are Accused
Of Manhandling in
Hotel Arrest June 9

Three District policemen will go before the Police Trial Board shortly on charges of beating and manhandling a man while making an arrest at the Dunbar Hotel on June 9, the Commissioners decided yesterday.

The city heads authorized the trial on a recommendation of the Complaint Review Board, which heard from James J. Witherspoon, 32, resident of the hotel at 2015 15th st. nw., charges that he received scalp lacerations and contusions of the right wrist at the hands of the policemen.

According to the reports and testimony submitted to the Review Board, Miss Jean Elizabeth Cain, 21, also a resident of the hotel, complained to police that Witherspoon had taken her pocketbook containing \$14.20 and cosmetics.

Pvts. David H. Gould and Debert D. Brill of the Thirteenth Precinct, and Pvt. James A. Hansbrough of the Tenth were summoned, and, according to Witherspoon, injured him with a blackjack. The police furnished statements to Inspector Clarence H. Lutz, who investigated, that Witherspoon had resisted arrest and in so doing had assaulted two of the policemen.

The policemen found the missing pocketbook in Witherspoon's closet. A charge of robbery was lowered to petit larceny on the advice of the U. S. Attorney's office and this was later dismissed by Judge Armond W. Scott on the ground that Witherspoon should have been charged with "taking property without right."

Inspector Lutz told Police Superintendent Robert J. Barrett that his investigation "has not brought out anything which we feel justified our sending the case to the trial board." Barrett noted, however, that B. Dabney Fox, attorney for Witherspoon, said additional evidence was available and asked the Complaint Review Board to study the case.

Yesterday the Commissioners adopted the board's recommendation that the case go to Police Trial Board.

Policeman Kills His Attacker



PVT. HAROLD TEAGUE
threatened with blackjack



THORTON HOWARD
hit by three bullets

Jewish Congregation Elects B. F. Pollack

Newly-elected president of Tifereth Agudath Ohavay Sholom Orthodox Jewish Congregation is Benjamin F. Pollack.

Other officers of the congregation, which is composed of the congregations of Tifereth Israel,

D.C.

Ohev Sholom and Agudath Achim, struck Teague in the face with his fist. Teague's cap went tumbling to the ground. Post

Teague pulled out his police blackjack and in the same motion grabbed Howard's arm and pinned it behind his back.

Teague, with Howard secured in an arm lock, started to march his prisoner to a nearby police call box. Spyres picked up Teague's cap and placed it on the policeman's head.

As he did this, Howard brought up his arm and threw Teague over his shoulder. Teague landed on his feet Howard had his blackjack.

As Howard advanced on him swinging the blackjack, Teague put up his nightstick. Howard made a swing with the blackjack and struck the nightstick to the ground. 10-24-49

Killed by a burst of bullets from the policeman's .38-caliber service revolver was Thornton A. Howard, 32, of 2286 11th st. nw., who had a police record dating back to 1936.

The policeman was Pvt. Harold V. Teague, 24, of the Thirteenth Precinct. He was appointed to the force last March.

The shooting took place shortly after 1 p. m. at Sherman ave. and Barry pl. nw.

Police said Howard had been a part-time mechanic at a filling station located on the southwest corner at that intersection.

After Servicing Car

Yesterday Arthur Spyres, 50, of 437 Elm st. nw. accompanied a friend to the filling station so the friend could have brake fluid put in his car.

Spyres told police that after Howard had put in the brake fluid they were prepared to pay for the service and drive off. He said, however, that Howard insisted the car would have to remain there for repairs to the steering wheel.

Spyres said Howard locked the car and put the keys in his pocket; that in an argument which followed Howard struck him and knocked him down.

At this point Teague, patrolling his beat, approached the corner on the east side of Sherman ave. Spyres ran across the street to inform the policeman he had been assaulted.

While Spyres was talking to the policeman, Howard crossed the street and tapped Teague on the shoulder. Teague turned and started to talk to Howard. Suddenly Howard lashed out and

Police said Howard's record showed an arrest on June 20, 1936, for unlawful entry. The sentence was \$25 or 30 days. 10-24-49

He forfeited \$5 each on three arrests in 1945 and 1948 for disorderly conduct, and \$10 on an arrest for being drunk in 1943. He was arrested in 1947 on a false pretenses charge but police records show no disposition of the case.

Florida

White Men Deny Beating Negro

Atlanta Daily World

MIAMI, Florida — (SNS) —

Two West Palm Beach police officers denied in Federal district court Tuesday they beat a Negro prisoner to force him to confess to theft.

The defense got under way in an unprecedented civil rights trial after Alton Fowler, 22, testified he was beaten so badly with a heavy strap he was in the hospital for one week.

Two other Negroes described alleged beatings Tuesday. They were Willie Davis, construction worker, and Willie McQueen, a West Palm Beach caddy.

Charged with beating Fowler are William M. Barnes, West Palm Beach detective; Walter I. Minton and Tuell M. Culbreth, deputy sheriffs and Worden A. Bader, special agent for the FEC. John Britt, police chief of Riviera Beach, is named as a conspirator. The federal indictment was the first of its kind ever returned in this area.

Barnes, first defense witness, admitted arresting Fowler for the sheriff's office and taking him to the West Palm Beach jail. Minton, Culbreth and Bader joined them there and the four questioned the Negro.

Later the four took Fowler to house where the stolen cigarettes were supposed to be hidden. Nothing was found. Barnes said about 3:30 a.m. they took Fowler to Riviera Beach jail.

On cross examination Barnes said the Negro was taken there to prevent his brother from finding him and obtaining his release through an attorney. Barnes said Fowler was "in good condition" when he was arrested, and made no complaints. He testified. Fowler said he'd had a fight with his wife.

Culbreth, second witness, also testified to Fowler's statements about a fight. Both he and Barnes denied any mistreatment of Fowler.

Oscar S. Miller, Fowler's attorney, took the stand before the government rested its case to describe his efforts to locate Fowler in the various jails following his arrest. He was unable to trace the Negro until word came that Fowler was in the Pine Ridge hospital, "nearly beaten to death."

Dr. Charles Harris, of the Pine Ridge hospital, told him Fowler had been "brutally handled" and was in a dan-

gerous condition," Miller testified.

Dr. Harris, testifying earlier, said Fowler had internal injuries bruises about the body and a black eye when examined at the hospital. The physician said the injuries "could have been caused by a beating."

Federal Judge Alfred Barksdale, Lynchburg, Va., presiding at the trial, dismissed a motion by Bart Riley, defense attorney for a direct verdict of not guilty for lack of evidence.

During argument on Riley's motion, while the jury was dismissed, Assistant District Attorney Fred W. Botts reported death threats had been made against Fowler.

"Fowler reported to me he overheard one of the defendants say that if he were convicted he would see that Fowler was killed. I want that information on public record so that if Fowler is killed, action will be taken."

Botts said he would back up his statement to Judge Barksdale by later testimony.

The defense is expected to complete its testimony this morning. Attorneys estimated the case would reach the jury shortly after noon.

Kills Two Negroes Jacksonville Cop Faces Civil Suit

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — (INS) — A police official accused of taking the lives of two Negroes without due process of law faces trial in Jacksonville's Federal District court for allegedly violating their civil rights. Sat. 1-16-49

The officer, chief Albert O. Sistrunk of Greenville, previously was cleared of manslaughter charges in the deaths of the Negroes last December.

Federal Judge Dozier Devane Friday denied four motions made by Sistrunk's attorneys to have the case dismissed against him because, they said, he was charged with two separate offenses in one grand jury indictment.

The charges arose in the deaths of Miles Smith and Simon Preacher Johnson last December after he tried to arrest him.

Dr. Charles Harris, of the Pine Ridge hospital, told him Fowler had been "brutally handled" and was in a dan-

Negro Beaten For Looking at Auto Wreck, Put In Jail While Knocked-Out and Dazed.

The Tattler, Jacksonville, Fla. Sat. 2-26-49

In Jail While Knocked-Out and Dazed. *13e*

Eddie Diamond, Ex-GI, Captain of Court D, Blodgette Homes was brutally beaten last Friday night in the 800 block on West State street around 9:15 o'clock for looking at an auto wreck.

Diamond stated to the Tattler Editor last Saturday night from his bed, that he was watching a car wreck on West State street near Davis, when a white man who operates a wrecking car business asked him—Mister do you own the wrecked car? The answer was NO. Then the white man gave Diamond a card and told him to look out for future business. At this point a policeman arrived on the scene and heard the white man call Diamond "Mister," this made the policeman hot, and he, the policeman said "that's the trouble now with these So and So ? ? Niggers" being called Mister.

Diamond walked across the street and related what was said to a group of young men who were looking on. After the police had finished the regular check-up, they called Diamond, asked him where did he work. Reply, "I am setting up Reserved Officers Units." He was then ordered into the patrol car, was cursed and the beating started from Madison and State with a black jack until the trio reached police headquarters. The cop who had administered the brutal beating remarked "it's a Damn good thing that my partner did not beat you, because you would have been near Damn dead." At this point the other Cop hit the poor defenseless fellow so hard in the face that he fell on his nose all Knocked-Out. Then the two cops dragged him into the jail and braced him up while they ripped out the lining of his coat searching for a knife that was not there. The victim's pocketbook containing \$23.00 was taken and then he was jailed where he remained all night unconscious without any medical aid until about 8 a.m., the next day when he was taken to the Duval Medical Center for only an X-Ray. He was returned to jail and given a choice of posting a \$30.00 bond for appearance in Police Court Saturday night or post a \$60.00 bond and don't show up. He did not show up. *The Tattler, Jacksonville, Fla.*

Diamond's pocketbook was returned, but it contained \$15.31 instead of the original amount of \$23.00. *Sat. 2-26-49*

Diamond all bloody from head to foot was released, and he immediately went to Dr. E. H. Washington's office and was

'Dixie's Special Police Made Up of Race Haters'

13e

treated for a busted nose, a paralyzed left arm and in a way a fractured right knee cap and ordered to bed. He is married and has one child.

This matter of Cop Beating is being investigated and soon everything is being done. This is the second brutal police beating in the 800 block West State street within the past two years—in each case nothing has been done, which gives a policeman license to beat innocent Negroes.

A Hint To The Wiso---If you don't want a police beating, don't watch an auto wreck.

Who Oppress Minority Grun. Kennedy Says

By STETSON KENNEDY
Author "Southern Exposure"
JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — Hay-ay Klan-minded orary" appointmen to almost Jackson Burns, the youthful new may-dicates to help keep col- or of this, my old home town, has ordered people "in their place, refused to re-appoint some 3,500 Plantation overseers, commis- "special police" who had beenary managers and work gang cloaked with the authority of law bosses commonly serve as this by his predecessors. Mayor Burns' commendable ac- tion points up an ancient and These men — who receive no

Terror Corps

so of ch. 9-17-49

These men — who receive no

public funds and perform no public duties — use their "special police" certificates to arm themselves with pistols and badges, obtainable in any pawn shop. Thus equipped, they seek to terrorize and exploit colored people by posing as "the law."

In actuality, such special police constitute a quasi-official band of storm troopers dedicated to the perpetuation of "white supremacy."

It was just such a band which committed the mass murder of a "suspect" in the Groveland case recently. Having felt obliged to turn back the Ku Klux mobs from the jail, the law officers proceeded to deputize the mob, turn loose the dogs, and let the hunt run its course.

At the kill, the officers simply turned their backs and let the "posse" do it "legal-like."

Ku Klux Klucking

The Klux around Groveland were actually klucking:

Got my pistol on my hip,
And my knapsack on my shoulder;

Gonna kill me a n——r before Saturday night,

If I have to hunt Florida over.

I know the requirements for obtaining a "Pistol Toter's Permit," because I'm a man who owns one.

Before Gov. Ellis Arnall put me on the Georgia Bureau of Investigation to probe the Klan, I went before a justice of the peace to get a pistol permit to protect myself in my private delving into the KKK's Invisible Empire.

Had to Affect Bias

But in order to get it, I had to let the justice assume that I needed it to "deal" with colored people.

I venture to say that for a person who is not white to apply for such a permit anywhere in the South, would be to run a risk of being jailed for "inciting to riot," or something similar.

On the other hand, I have known bill collectors right here in Jacksonville who forced minority group creditors at gunpoint to disrobe on the streets because they had defaulted on payments for credit clothing.

Enter Homes at Gunpoint

And I have been an eye-witness, also here in Jacksonville, to the forced entry of furniture bill collectors, flashing special badge and pistol, to repossess household furnishings in colored homes.

It's no wonder folk say:

If there ever was a devil

Born in the land,

It must have been

The furniture man.

But the real devil must be driven out of this land of ours if race prejudice in all its forms.

Probe

Captain, Guard Out During Probe

Strike by Men Brings

Investigation by State

Rubber Hose Used

Mistreatment Scored

by Road Supervisor

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. — Suspension of the captain and a guard of the Panama City convict camp after prisoners complained of beatings with rubber hose was announced Thursday by Chairman Alfred A. McKethan of the State Road Department.

He said an investigation of affairs at the camp is continuing.

"We won't tolerate mistreatment of prisoners in the custody of the State road department," McKethan said. Nearly all Florida's convict work camps are under the road department supervision.

He said the suspended captain is J. A. Hollis, and the guard is William Spivey.

Prisoners Go on Strike

McKethan said the investigation began after prisoners at the camp all colored, went on strike and refused to work one day last week.

He said Hollis had been given a hearing before him and representatives of both the road department and prison division had held a hearing at the camp in Panama City.

Henry M. Farrior of Chipley, a relief captain and former sheriff of Washington County, has been placed in charge of the camp temporarily.

Hollis has been connected with the road department convict division for 18 years.

Was Suspended Once

He was captain of the camp at Bronson in 1946, when Pearl McAden, killer of Tampa gambler Charlie Moon, made a sensational escape. Although Hollis was away from the camp at the time, Gov. Millard Caldwell ordered him suspended until McAden was recaptured.

When McAden was returned to Florida from Chicago 17 months later, Hollis was reinstated as captain of the camp at DeFuniak Springs. He was transferred to the Panama City camp later.

13e 1949

Prison Strike Brings Probe Of Brutality

(Defender Southeastern Bureau)

TALLAHASSEE, Fla.—Dixie pris-
on conditions that have caused
a number of northern states to re-
fuse returning Negro prisoners to
the South were further exposed
last week when two convict guards
were suspended for cruelty.

The captain and a guard of the
Panama City convict camp were
removed from their jobs while an
investigation continued into pro-
tracted prison beatings against
Negro convicts. The probe was the
outgrowth of a prisoners' strike.

Chairman Alfred A. McKethan
of the state road department an-
nounced Thursday that Capt. J. A.
Hollis and William Spivey, a
guard, of the Panama City camp
were suspended following com-
plaints by the convicts that they
were beaten with rubber hose.

The men were said to have been
beaten while guards menacingly
fingered their pistols and shotguns
in a threat to shoot to kill if the
prisoners resisted the torture.

Campbell, were charged with beat-
ing up Paul A. Patrick, a white
man, last December.

Florida

Police Deny*Atlanta Daily World*
Murality

Officer Charles T. Dopson in statement submitted in behalf of himself and his partner, B. E. Wilson recently, offered a categorical denial of charges brought by Mrs. Lillian Sullivan, of 340 Merritts Avenue, that during a search for whiskey at her house on Jan. 16, the officers allegedly brutalized her, following which she allegedly suffered a miscarriage at a local hospital.

In what they termed the true statement of facts in the previous report developing from Jan. 16 accusations, the officers enumerated their denials as follows:

1. Neither police officer referred to struck said woman.
2. Neither police officer used brutality to her.
3. Neither police officer drew a black-jack.
4. Neither police officer drew a pistol on her.
5. Neither police officer pointed a pistol at her stomach.
6. Neither police officer said "I don't give a . . . I will knock the baby out of you if you don't tell me where the whiskey is."
7. Mrs. Sullivan was not a "victim."

The officers claimed they went to Mrs. Sullivan's house in search of a man named O. D. Moore, accused of wife beating and were acting upon information received. They claimed Mrs. Sullivan admitted them without any objection. The officers claimed they smelled a strong odor of whiskey about the house whereupon they asked questions and searched. They denied any violence to Mrs. Sullivan.

Attorneys S. S. Robinson and E. Moore, who represent Mrs. Sullivan's interests, claim she "had just cause for complaint" and they intend "to seek a judicial determination of the merits of the case."

Identify Officers**Accused Of Abusing****Expectant Mother**

The two officers accused of brutalizing an expectant mother who had a miscarriage shortly after the ordeal Sunday night were identified as City Officers C. T. Dopson and his partner, B. E. Wilson, attorneys for the victim disclosed Thursday.

The victim, Mrs. Lillian Sullivan, of 340 Merritts Avenue, N. E., charged in a sworn affidavit that the officers stormed into her house without a warrant and accused her of selling whiskey. When she de-

nied the accusation, the victim said one of the officers struck her twice.

Two Negroes killed last week in jails in Buford and Sparta drew his pistol and blackjack (Georgia) started citizens wondering if the Talmadge state has adopted a new lynch pattern.

will pay new teachers, colored and white, same salary starting September, 1950. Ralph Bunche High School is nearing completion in King George County (Virginia). School erected at cost of \$150,000.

Twenty minutes after they left her residence without finding any whiskey, Mrs. Sullivan was said to have suffered a miscarriage at Grady hospital. She was about seven months in expectancy.

Attorneys S. S. Robinson and E. Moore were retained by the complainant for the purpose of criminally or civilly prosecuting the officers.

Asks \$50,000 for Brutality of Atlanta Policemen

Mrs. Lillian Sullivan of 340 Merritts Avenue, N.E., Atlanta, signs a claim for \$50,000 damages against the City of Atlanta. She is charging two city policemen with brutality at her home last January. Twenty minutes after the experience Mrs. Sullivan suffered a miscarriage at a local hospital. Looking on are her attorneys Eugene E. Moore Jr. and Sylvester S. Robinson. The Atlanta NAACP has initiated efforts to raise funds for the case if the city does not make settlement within 30 days, as required under Georgia law. The city has until May 13 to answer Mrs. Sullivan's claim or she may institute court action in Federal courts under the civil rights statute of the U.S. Constitution. If this trial develops, it will mark the first case in Georgia of a colored person bringing legal action against police brutality.—Griff Davis Photo.

Sheriff Indicted In**7 Floggings**

TRENTON (AP) — Sheriff J. W. Lynch, three deputies and a private citizen were indicted here yesterday on assault charges in the flogging of seven Negroes by hooded men reported to be members of the Ku Klux Klan.

The Dade County Grand Jury returned the indictments after the seven Negroes came here from Chattanooga yesterday to testify. They were escorted by Georgia

Bureau of Investigation agents and State troopers.

The officers were charged with assault and battery and failure to suppress mob violence. These are misdemeanor charges. The deputies indicted are W. M. Hartline, N. Stokes McCaulley and John Bleckley. Robert Keener was indicted on an assault charge.

Judge John H. Paschall ordered the men to make appearance bonds of \$1,000 each.

Attorney Frank M. Gleason, who will represent Sheriff Lynch and his deputies, made a statement for the officers:

"We welcome the investigation and the indictments. The charges appear to be of a serious nature and they should be thoroughly investigated. We are confident that the defendants are not guilty of any of the charges and welcome a trial."

Judge Paschal, in his charge to the grand jury, said, "It is reported that the alleged assault was administered by the Ku Klux Klan. And in view of that I think it proper to inquire if any of you gentlemen are members of the Ku Klux Klan."

No juror responded.

**White and Negro
Nearly Executed
Prisoners Tell
Of Brutality**

Ptl. V. A. Howell, a veteran Atlanta officer, has been suspended for allegedly striking a Negro prisoner and threatening a young officer who sought to restrain him. Police Chief Herbert Jenkins reported here last night.

The fray allegedly happened early Sunday morning when Howell reported for duty on the fourth floor of the city jail. Howell, who has been with the department 23 years, has been suspended from duty until the Police Committee of the City Council can investigate the incident, it was learned here Monday night.

According to sources at the city jail here white prisoners and a Negro prisoner had said in a signed statement that as Howell entered the fourth floor door, he kicked Fred Cleveland, a Negro assigned to work out a station house fine on the day watch.

Brown reportedly told Howell: "I hate to say anything to you about it, but you can tell that man to move without kicking him or hitting him."

Howell, whom Jenkins quoted as saying his "nerves must be going bad," then slapped the prisoner, hit him with a blackjack and threatened Brown with a gun when the

him. He was not finished with the indoctrination of the alleged犯人. Judge McClelland said he considered loss of his job some punishment for Hudson and was also taking into consideration his youth.

A. T. Walden, represented by Atty. Farnbread, said he "may have hit" Robert Farnbread when the latter attempted to escape from a patrol car after he was arrested for disorderly conduct. In the day, Hudson

Judge McClelland he was a Negro prisoner, was fined for disorderly conduct. In the day, Hudson a 12-month student at Clark College and had also leave. Hudson a 12-month student at Clark College and had also resign from the police force.

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Men Who Shame Our State and Flag

Two persons from Bainbridge came to see me. They were solemn and sad, worried and a little bit afraid.

They had a right to be. *Condensed*

This was their story. A short time ago a 15-year-old Negro boy had been arrested on his return from a stay of two weeks in Ashburn. Frightened, cowed and very much alone, he was taken roughly, he says, to jail. *June 8-19-49*

In a sworn statement from a hospital bed, he said that after arrest he was told he had insulted a white woman. He had not, and he denied it as strongly as he could. The officer then called up a number and had the boy talk into the telephone. "Does that sound like him?" he asked. *Atlanta, Ga.*

The boy said the county officer then hit him with his fist and locked him up. There was no warrant and no charge made.

He says he asked the county officer what he was charged with doing and the officer said to him that if it were up to him the boy would never see his daddy again. That's pretty hard on a boy of 15.

Waiting Apparently there was no charge or evidence against him because the next night the boy was released—late, about 10:30 p.m.

In his statement he said that when he came down the steps from the jail two men were waiting. They both hit him and one put a sack over his head. They took him to a car. During the drive they struck him and cursed him. After a while they reached some woods and got out, dragging him with them.

Boy Now, whatever his race, this was but a 15-year-old boy. He was, one may assume, very much afraid and in a state of terror. Any boy would have been. He was all alone and knew he might be killed.

The boy was beaten, very heavily, with a strap and a club. He was asked if he believed in civil rights. He said he didn't know what they were and had never heard of them. The odds are the men who were mistreating him so brutally didn't know what they were either. They asked him if he knew of any niggers insulting white women. He says they told him they were going to beat him until they killed him if he didn't tell. He said, truthfully, he didn't know any. They asked him who he ran around with and he told them. He is afraid they will be beaten, although the boy swears that neither he nor they have ever insulted or sought to insult anyone. He says they then asked him how old he was and he said 15 and they each whipped him hard for every year of his age. They then told him to run.

Alone It was after midnight and dark. The 15-year-old boy tried to run, but kept falling down because he was almost unconscious and badly beaten. He says he hid in some bushes all night and the next morning, feverish and sick, asked for some water at a white farmer's house. The man gave him the water and asked him what the matter was. He said nothing was the matter. He went on to a Negro's house and these people bathed him and dressed his badly wounded back and put him to bed. They also called the deputy.

The boy and the deputy found the place where he had been whipped. They also found his shoes which had come off during the beating.

The deputy called the sheriff at Bainbridge and the boy's father, and the boy was put in the hospital at Bainbridge, with raw wounds from the beating.

The case is being "investigated."

Results As I have said here before, the Klan or a manifestation of the Klan, is a cancer which will sicken and harm any town which does not rise to put it down.

Bainbridge is a fine city. Its colored and white populations always have got on well together. Its people do not approve of

vicious ruffians taking the law into their own hands. The good people must not be afraid of the Klan element, which has pack courage, but only pack courage.

The pattern of this was typical. The law had nothing against the boy. But the outlaws, those of the Klan mentality, wanted to beat and slug someone in order to terrorize the Negro population, rather than allow the law to run down any law violation by any Negro or persons in the town, suspected of saying obscene things over the telephone, which was the offense being investigated.

Pattern It could easily have been determined if the boy had been away. If he had been guilty it could have been proved. The boy in question was released because he was not involved.

But, the point to note is that two men knew when the boy would be released and were waiting. That is in the pattern.

What has happened there—as has happened in a few more places—is that a group of men have put themselves above the law.

Somebody at the jail let the men know when the boy would be released.

The people of Bainbridge and the county can join together and say they vote for sheriffs and for courts and they want them to handle their cases. They can demand of the sheriff that he run this down and arrest the guilty men and present the evidence to the grand jury. They can ask the sheriff why prisoners released from his jail can be picked up at the door, a sack put over their head, and then taken away by force and violence at the very door of the building which houses the law enforcement offices of the county. Many persons in the county are outraged and aroused. That's what we need.

Georgia can't go on advertising to the Nation that mobs can mock our law and our courts. We aren't the sort of people these evil persons try to make us seem.

Let the law find the guilty and try them legally, by law, and jail them by law.

We can't go on allowing violent and lawless men to dominate us. The flag of the United States and the flag of Georgia are supposed to fly over our courthouses and public buildings. Let's remember that. They are supposed to stand for law and justice.

Cell-Slaying Viewed As New Undercover Mob
Maryland, Harper And Boyd
Report Widespread Cases Of Violence
By C. W. Greenlee
Atlanta, Ga., 8-12-49

ATLANTA, Ga.—(SNS)— Giving credence to a wide-spread belief that a new pattern of terror and intimidation is sweeping over the State of Georgia, two young Negro men were killed in their jail cells last week.

Both men, in widely separated sections of the State, were reported arrested on minor charges, accused of attacking guards inside the jails, then shot down under a hail of police bullets.

At Sparta, Georgia, 21-year-old L.C. Culver was reported killed in the Hancock County jail Saturday morning when he was shot through the head and face by Chief of Police Moody Purline. Officers said the man had knocked down Sheriff Bernard Butts and was beating him when he was slain. They charged him with being mentally deranged, but friends and relatives told NAACP representatives that the man was perfectly normal.

Culver is survived by a wife who is an expectant mother. The family is poverty stricken and has no funds to bury the body. Hancock County officials Monday were quibbling over providing a county burial because the jail victim was a prisoner "killed in the line of duty." Culver had been charged with holding up a white man with a shot gun on the highway a few months ago.

Gasper had been arrested on Saturday, July 30, but had been released on \$100 bond by Arthur Hamilton, white saw-mill owner. He worked for Hamilton on Monday, August 2, but on Tuesday he failed to report to the mill when he missed a truck ride. Wednesday morning at 6:30 a.m., he was picked up by Buford police as he awaited his ride to work, and told that Hamilton had "gone off his bond." Wednesday and Thursday he feared for his life, according to his family. He was shot Thursday, August 4.

NAACP officials Monday were contemplating steps to counter-act what they believed to be a new fast-spreading pattern of terror, a new "lynch technique."

Dr. William Boyd, State NAACP president and C. L. Harper, Atlanta branch president, stated that both cases are under investigation, and some legal action will perhaps be taken.

Atlanta Daily World records show almost identical instances of jail-cell killings in the cases of Sam Terry last February at Manchester, Georgia, and Henry Gilbert at LaGrange. Terry, confined to his home with mumps, was arrested for a family disturbance and later killed in the LaGrange jail by officers who accused him of attacking them. He had 13 dependents. His widow was in the next room of the jail when Terry was shot. She denied officers' statements that her husband attacked them.

Gilbert was a prosperous LaGrange farmer who owned land that had long been sought by white buyers. He had been arrested on a minor charge.

Atlanta Policeman Kicks Prisoner, Gets Suspended

By NNPA News Service

ATLANTA, Ga.—A veteran Atlanta police officer has been suspended for allegedly striking a colored prisoner and threatening a younger officer who sought to stop him according to Police Chief Herbert Jenkins.

Patrolman V. A. Howell, a veteran of twenty-three years' service with the department, has been suspended from duty until the Police Committee of City Council can investigate the incident, Jenkins announced.

The incident allegedly occurred at 2:45 p. m., Sunday, July 31, when Howell reported on the fourth floor of city jail to relieve Patrolman R. H. Brown as turnkey. *Sp. 8-13-49*

Three white prisoners and a colored prisoner said in signed statements that as Howell entered the fourth floor door he kicked Fred Cleveland, a colored prisoner assigned to work out a station house fine on the day watch he chief rated.

"I hate to say anything to you about it," Brown was quoted as saying to Howell. "but you can tell that man to move without kicking him or hitting him."

Howell then slapped the prisoner, struck him with a blackjack and threatened Brown with a drawn gun when the younger officer sought to restrain him, the statements continue.

Jenkins quoted Howell as saying his "nerves must be going bad." The chief said Howell indicated he might seek to obtain a disability pension for that reason.

Howell was severely mauled several weeks ago, by a group of unruly prisoners. His glasses were broken and his dentures were broken in the melee when three prisoners suddenly turned on him.

Cell-Slayings Viewed As New, Undercover Mob

Harper And Boyd

Georgia

is poverty stricken and has no funds to bury the body. Hancock County officials Monday were quibbling over providing a county burial because the jail victim was a prisoner "killed in the line of duty." Culver had been charged with holding up a white man with a shot gun on the highway a few months ago.

Glasper had been arrested on Saturday, July 30, but had been released on \$100 bond by Arthur Hamilton, white saw-mill owner. He worked for Hamilton on Monday, August 2, but on Tuesday he failed to report to the mill when he missed a truck ride. Wednesday morning at 6:30 a. m., he was picked up by Buford police as he awaited his ride to work, and told that Hamilton had "gone off his bond." Wednesday and Thursday he feared for his life, according to his family. He was shot Thursday, August 4.

NAACP officials Monday were contemplating steps to counter-act what they believed to be a new fast-spreading pattern of terror; a new "lynch technique."

Dr. William Boyd, State NAACP president and C. L. Harper, Atlanta branch president, stated that both cases are under investigation, and some legal action will perhaps be taken.

Atlanta Daily World records show almost identical instances of jail-cell killings in the cases of Sam Terry last February at Manchester, Georgia, and Henry Gilbert at LaGrange.

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He had 13 dependents. His widow

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when Terry was shot. She denied

officers' statements that her hus-

band attacked them.

Gilbert was a prosperous LaGrange farmer who owned land that had long been sought by white buyers. He had been arrested on a minor charge.

At Sparta, Georgia, 25-year-old L. C. Culver was reported killed in the Hancock County jail Saturday morning when shot through the head and face by Chief of Police Moody Purdie. Officers said the man had knocked down Sheriff Bernard Butts and was beating him when he was slain. They charged him with being mentally deranged, but friends and relatives told NAACP representatives that the man was perfectly normal.

Culver is survived by a wife who is an expectant mother. The family

is poverty stricken and has no funds to bury the body. Hancock County officials Monday were quibbling over providing a county burial because the jail victim was a prisoner "killed in the line of duty." Culver had been charged with holding up a white man with a shot gun on the highway a few months ago.

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Brutality, Nonetheless

A former Negro policeman entered a plea of guilty Monday to a reprisal assault upon Robert Fambreau, another Negro, of 224 West Lake Avenue. The officer was J. A. Hudson, who had only recently joined the police force.

Judge John S. McClelland, of the Fulton Criminal Court, was so impressed with the seriousness of the charge against the former officer that he fined him Fifty dollars and gave him a 12 month suspended sentence. It is clear then, that the Judge did not like that sort of behavior reported for an officer of the law and neither do we.

The same charge made against a white officer would be termed police brutality. And merely because it happened this time to a Negro officer does not, in the least, change the nature nor the seriousness of the beating. We think, therefore, that we should serve notice upon the Negro officers of the law, no less than upon the whites, that we have no intentions of upholding an officer who violates the rights of our citizens.

We repeat, we don't like the reported conduct of Mr. Hudson, who seemed more anxious to get a chance to demonstrate his power as an officer than his fitness. And if the charges are as they are reported to be, it is to be seriously doubted that he can be brought to exercise the proper restraint and fitness as an officer of the law.

Finally, it ought to be said too, that the reported conduct of Sergeant Brooks is open to some doubt. As we understand it, he is in charge of the Negro patrolmen. The facts show that he was present at the time of the beating and that counsel for the beaten victim contemplates action against him before Chief Jenkins. It seems to us that supervising officer with the proper interest in the training of young recruits to the force would want to give his men a better start on a job charged with so grave a responsibility. We wonder if such unwise counselling can be responsible for some of the other acts of indiscretion on the part of the newcomers to the force?

Yes, we at least believe that Chief Jenkins should be permitted to hear the evidence brought out in the case Monday. And in doing so, both Sergeant Brooks and officer Lyons, who is also charged with "aiding and abetting" in the assault upon Mr. Fambreau will have a chance to testify. We can in no wise, give our approval to officers who are bent upon violating the civil rights of our citizens. For in truth, the work of a police officer is as much a matter of education in the law as it is enforcing obedience to the law.

**Policeman
Atlanta, Ga.
Fined \$50**

John Davis, Hudson, resigned Atlanta policeman, yesterday faced a \$50 fine and a suspended 12-month sentence after being arraigned in the Criminal Court of Fulton County on an assault and battery charge.

Judge John H. McClelland sentenced the former policeman after the policeman pleaded guilty to a charge alleging that he had made an assault upon Robert Fambreau, of

ed and denied beating Fambreau, said he planned to send a transcript of Hudson's commitment trial and his conviction to Chief Herbert Jenkins with a recommendation for action against Sergeant Brooks and Officer Lyons.

Fambreau told the court that he was taken behind the Pickett Brown Manufacturing Company and beaten after the three policemen allegedly picked him up at Chestnut and West Fair, with Hudson informing him that he was being arrested on a charge of disorderly conduct-cursing in the drug store.

Hudson said he struck Fambreau when the arrested man attempted to escape from the patrol car.

223 West Lake Avenue, N. W., on October 10.

The charge had been lodged against Hudson by the alleged victim who swore out a warrant on October 11, charging that he was taken for a ride and beaten by Hudson in the presence of another officer and a white police sergeant.

Attorney W. L. Gower, representing the accuser charged that the accused patrolman was "aided and abetted" by Sgt. E. B. Brooks, officer in command of the Negro division of the Atlanta patrolman,

and Ernest H. Lyons, partner of Attorney Gower, who presented a transcript of a hearing in the Civil Court before Judge Ralph McClelland, at which Hudson appear-

St. Louis, Mo. Aug.

Open Verdict Returned In Death Of Prisoner

Monday morning, the coroner's jury returned an open verdict in the death of James Perry, 41 years old of 1006 Atchison avenue, who died at Homer Phillips hospital, after being transferred from the 4th District Police Station, Aug. 4. The post-mortem report of Dr. John J. Connor of the Coroner's office showed that Perry died of subdural hematoma from an unknown blow to the side of the head. *8-15-49*

Several witnesses were called in and told about seeing the arresting officer slap Perry several times. The arrest grew out of a disturbance at the 15th and Cole street park in which the park watchman, Elmus Miller, was assisting Perry from the park and the police squad car passed carrying Sgt. Jesse Miller, who was accused of slapping Perry, along with officers Charles Robeson Charles Jones. All of the officers claimed that the sergeant did not strike Perry at all during the arrest. *8-20-49*

Gertrude Burns who was with Perry at the time of the trouble charged that sergeant slapped Perry after the park watchman handed him over and walked away. She said at no time was Perry hostile toward the officers.

Alexander Finch of 2900 Thomas street who was the cellmate of Perry told the Coroner's jury when Perry entered the cell he said that his head was hurting and appealed to the turn-key to take him to the hospital thru the remainder of the night but nothing was done. Finch said that Perry later asked for an aspirin but did not receive one and that he fell down in the cell three or four times.

Charles Walton of 1005 North 14th street said that he saw Sgt. Miller slap Perry in the face three times and then put him into the car. Other witnesses who stated that they saw the sergeant's conduct were Thomas Richardson of 1528 Cole street, and Gertrude Burns.

The Civil Rights Congress of St. Louis has obtained Attorney Douglas McLeod to handle the case for the family of the victim.

Fugitive Slain In ~~arrest~~, *Aug. 20, 1949* Duel With Police

CHICAGO—(INS)—A two-gun fugitive who shot it out with police in a pitched battle for nearly three hours was killed late Thursday when he tried to escape from the burning house in which he had barricaded himself. *8-20-49*

Three policemen were reported wounded by the Negro gunman during the sensational fight, witnessed by an estimated crowd of 12,000 persons. Another officer was cut by flying glass. *8-20-49*

Two other persons, a Negro boy and a Negro youth, were wounded by the apparently crazed gunman before he began his duel with police (at 2635 Washington Blvd. Court) on Chicago's west side.

Police Commissioner John Prendergast, who narrowly escaped being hit when he entered the structure, called it one of the worst gun fights he had seen in his 40-year career on the force.

The gunman was shot down when he tried to squeeze through a narrow passageway beside the two-story dwelling.

The gun battle began about 9 p.m. when police went to Craig's apartment to arrest him for the shooting of the Negro child, identified as Drake Atkins, 2, (f 2637 Washington Blvd.)

Police said Atkins was wounded in the head when Craig fired at 17-year-old Lawrence Mack (of 2139 Washington Blvd.) during an argument which started when the dead man accused the youth of stealing his revolver.

Commissioner Prendergast, Chief Ray Crane of uniformed police, and a Capt. O'Malley entered the building at one point and dueled with the gunman.

13e 1949

Probe Requested In Fatal Shooting Of Negro Boy

Courier-Journal
Lexington, Ky., Sept. 9 (AP)—The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People today sought an open investigation of the fatal shooting of a 16-year-old Negro boy here Sep-
tember 9-10-49

The youth, captured in a neighborhood where police sought a prowler, was shot after he fled a police cruiser.

James A. Crumlin, attorney for the organization, told the City commissioners his group felt an open investigation should be made. A local committee protested the incident to the commission

Courier-Journal
City Manager J. Pelham Johnston told the attorney an inquiry had been made and added it was not necessary that the investigation be made public.

Mayor Tom Mooney told the committee no formal charge was made against the four officers involved in the case because it was not determined who fired the fatal shot.

Former Teacher Fires 3 Shots In Classroom

Courier-Journal
Lexington, Ky., Dec. 8 (AP)—A 54-year-old former schoolteacher was ordered committed to Eastern State Hospital today after the shooting in a public-school classroom of a Negro teacher.

Judge Chester D. Adams of Fayette Circuit Court ordered the woman committed to the institution for observation and treatment pending a lunacy hearing. The hearing is scheduled to start tomorrow.

City police seized the assailant, Miss Sara Simpson, also a Negro, in the school building, where she was hiding, 3 hours after the shooting. Police said she had a gun and shells in her purse.

Struck In Shoulder

Her brother, Herbert Simpson, instituted the court proceedings.

Witnesses said Miss Simpson entered the third-grade room of Miss Marietta Hunter and fired three shots after declaring, "I'm going to get all of you for talking about me."

One of the shots struck Miss Hunter in the shoulder, but she fled the room, running down a

Kentucky

12-9-49

Classes Dismissed

School authorities said Miss Simpson gave illness as the reason for resigning her teaching position last summer. Associates at the school said the former teacher believed she was being persecuted by Miss Hunter and the school principal, Miss Lucy Smith.

Miss Hunter, 46, has taught at the school since 1915 and teachers said she was "well-liked and popular." Her condition could not be learned at the hospital where she was taken.

After the shooting classes were dismissed for the day but will resume tomorrow.

13e 1949

Louisiana

Denied Rights; Policemen Fired

~~Denounced~~
NEW ORLEANS, Dec. 17 — (AP) — Two New Orleans policemen were minus their badges today after a departmental trial found them guilty of depriving two young Negroes of their civil rights.

Patrolmen Robert J. Walker, 24, and Charles T. Rutecki, 26, were dismissed from the force.

The Negroes, one 15 and one 19, complained to Superintendent of Police Joseph L. Scheuerling that they were picked up and beaten by the two officers.

Scheuerling found the patrolmen guilty of "depriving the pair of their civil liberties, by taking them into custody but not booking them at the precinct station."

**INQUIRY ORDERED
ON DEATH IN JAIL**

Jones-Pearce
Police to Check with All
Figuring in Case
11-11-49

An investigation of the death of a Negro man in the Gretna jail—in whose arrest New Orleans police participated—was ordered Thursday by superintendent of police Joseph C. Scheuering.

The man, Eugene Jones, 42, 3023 Green, was found dead in his cell Saturday less than four hours after he had been arrested by Seventh Precinct police and turned over to Jefferson parish deputy sheriffs on a narcotics charge.

The widow of the dead man, Martha Jones, Negro, 25, charged that her husband was beaten when police, accompanied by two Jefferson parish deputies, arrested him from his residence. She said the deputies returned to the residence twice following the arrest and beat her husband in her presence.

Dr. Kermit F. Brau, Jefferson parish coroner, said following an autopsy on Jones' body that the man died of "circulatory collapse," apparently caused by an overdose of "marijuana."

Dr. Brau was unable to explain the presence of three puncture wounds on Jones' body, however.

Records show that Jones was arrested by Lt. Joseph Mae

Search for Jones
and patrolman Jules Martin, of the Seventh Precinct, booked with her husband had gone to bed being a fugitive from justice, about 10:30 p.m., and were turned over to deputies Vic Massawakened several hours afterward when they heard a knock at the door. Jones answered the door, asking who was there, she said. Four men then pushed the door open and told him to put his clothes on, they were going "for a ride."

Scheuering said he was signed Maj. Albert Blancher, supervisor of precincts, to investigate the case. He said Blancher plans to talk with all persons involved in the case and make a written report on it.

When he protested, they hit him over the head with a stick, she said. While he dressed, they continued to hit him, they just took him out and were gone about half an hour, she stated. Three or four times they came back, and then left again. Jones was handcuffed according to Mrs. Jones and the blood gushed from his mouth.

Sunday when she called the jail to see whether she could bring him fresh clothes she was told he was dead. The wife said

Ex-Marine Brutally Beaten to Death by Two Deputies

Taken 'For a Ride,' Later Found Dead in La. Jail

Coroner Calls Death 'Natural Causes'

But Continues to Probe Two 'Punctures'

NEW ORLEANS, La. (AP)— that two of the men were New Orleans policemen and the other two, Jefferson parish deputies. She said that she had never seen who served in the last war, while them before.

Questioned on the physical condition of her dead husband, Mrs. Jones said that he hadn't been to a physician for several years. He served a year with the Marines and after his discharge had been operated on for ulcers of the stomach.

The parish coroner said that Jones died "from 100 percent natural causes," but he wants additional time to account for two had been operated on for ulcers "punctures" in the forehead and of the stomach.

Deputies Silent

The New Orleans policemen said that they had arrested Jones by the parish authorities, and no one can account for the arrests in connection with the sale of marijuana cigarettes. The deputies involved in the arrest and when he was spirited away "for the beating have made no statement as yet.

"I'm sure Jones died from natural causes," said the coroner. He stated that the death had been so entered officially following an autopsy performed the next day at the Foundation Hospital. On the back of Jones' head, the coroner said, was a laceration about "one to one-quarter inches" in length. The right hand was swollen as was the neck. There were no explanations for these.

Fatal Beating *at Gretna Ga. jail* Charged Deputies

Questioned on the physical condition of her dead husband, Mrs. Jones said that he hadn't been to a physician for several years. He served a year with the Marines and after his discharge had been operated on for ulcers of the stomach.

The New Orleans policemen said that they had arrested Jones for the Jefferson parish authorities in connection with the sale of marijuán cigarettes. The deputies involved in the arrest and the beating have made no statement as yet.

The suspected murder of the longshoreman by New Orleans police here are involved in the suspected murder of another Negro—the second case of its kind in the past several months.

An investigation has been ordered into the death of Eugene Jones, 42, in the Gretna jail. He was found dead in his cell last Saturday less than four hours after he was arrested by New Orleans' Seventh Precinct police of marijuana" backfired when the parish doctor could not explain the presence of punctures on Jones' body.

Brau's statement followed an audience with the two deputies. According to Mrs. Jones, she and her husband had gone to bed about 10:30 p.m., and were awakened several hours afterwards when they heard a knock at the door. Jones answered the door, asking who was there, she said. Four men then pushed the door open and told him to put his clothes on, they were going "for a ride."

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Probe 2nd Cell Death In New Orleans Jail

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Scheuering, after the death man's puncture wounds and numerous

bruises were found on the man's body. Brau, Jefferson parish coroner, to the slaying of Rev. John F. Neill, a Catholic priest. An attorney for Dr. Kermit F. in a cell following his arrest for the death of Rev. John F. Neill, a Catholic priest. Scheuering, after the death man's puncture wounds and numerous

Free 4th Officer in Brutality Case

the injury upon themselves purposely in order "to take it easy" in the infirmary.

"With a cell 7 x 12 feet," the ex-prison head said, "there is no reason why the prisoners could not exercise and keep warm."

He did not deny the cell block was cold, at one point admitting from the stand that when he visited him back his feet.

Amerly remonstrating against than it was outside," and he was

Army officer held responsible

at a prison camp in Germany

stalled.

Lt. Col. William Fitzhugh

prosecutor.

before the seven-mem-

ber court martial board, consisting

of two generals and five colonels,

Colonel Fitzhugh last Friday, drew

a reprimand from Brig. Gen. Edwin

Zundel, court president, when he

continued:

"Three men have already been

acquitted but isn't someone respon-

sible? The eyes of the country are

on this trial."

Private Wood and several of the other witnesses, however, said that the only stove in the cell block was used in the guards' day room.

The three officers previously ac-

quitted by the court martial were

judged not to have neglected their

duty in their various capacities in

letting the soldiers freeze.

Disregard Evidence of Cruelty

It was at this point that General

Zundel shouted, "Those remarks

are uncalled for."

It then took less than 20 minutes for the "high brass" on the board to acquit Col. Harold H. McClune former camp commander of charges of neglect of duty and inhuman treatment of American camp prisoners in the Wurzburg, Germany, Rehabilitation Center.

Private Wood and several other prisoners in the camp during the freezing winter of 1945 testified that they had suffered frozen feet, Wood's injury being so serious that his feet had to be amputated.

Commander's Performance Louder

The officers in charge of the stockade were charged with failing to supply heat in the windowless portion of the barracks where the prisoners were held, and with refusing even to give the men enough blankets to keep them from freezing, among other things.

As head of the stockade at that time, Colonel McClune, who was returned from retirement in Florida and put on active duty to stand trial, was charged with neglect of duty.

The defense contended that Colonel McClune's duties were so numerous that it was impossible for him to devote more than one-third of his time in the prison stockade.

The defense argued that under these conditions, he performed his duties in an efficient manner, possessing the requisites of a good officer.

The colonel, in his own defense in lambasting the frozen prisoners as "gold-brickers," stated that he believed that the men who complained of frostbite had inflicted

13e 1949

Michigan

Policeman Who Beat Vet, Goes To Court

(13e)
Commentator,
Sgt. Harry Van Nortwick was scheduled for arraignment for information before Recorder's Judge John J. Maher on Thursday to answer an aggravated assault charge made by a disabled veteran.

The Trumbull Station desk sergeant waived examination on Feb. 3, after pleading not guilty earlier and being released on \$500 personal bond.

Complainant is Rufus Horne, 77, 269 Tennessee, a sixty percent disabled veteran.

BLOW BREAKS NOSE

The weight-throwing champion of the police department was charged with breaking the vet's nose with a blackjack in the station on New Year's Day. He was suspended three weeks ago, pending an investigation by the Prosecuting Attorney's office.

Horne in his statement charged that the desk sergeant came around his desk and hit him with a blackjack. The blow allegedly broke his nose, and knocked him to the floor in a dazed condition.

GETS TRAFFIC TICKET

The disabled veteran came in the station with his brother who was given a traffic ticket for exceeding the speed law. The clash, Horne reported, came as result of his questioning of a proposed charge of his disturbing the peace while in Trumbull station.

Police Trial Board action against the 42 year old policeman awaits trial of the criminal case.

Victim Of Brutality By Law Officers

Aug. 13e

McCOMB, Miss., Sept. 4—A startling expose of police brutality in Mississippi was made Friday by the fighting editor of the Enterprise-Journal of this city. He bitterly condemned the flogging of prisoners in Mississippi. His fire was specifically directed at law agents in the unmerciful beating of an aged Negro woman.

Declaring that several citizens had given him report of the flogging of the woman, he wrote a fiery front page editorial "with view of bringing such practices to a halt in the Pike County jail. The editor, Oliver Emmerich said Sheriff Robert E. Lee dodged the issue.

Emmerich declared:

"A 68-year-old Negro woman is alleged to have been severely whipped in the Pike County jail with a cat-o-nine-tails type of whip, not because she had been charged with a violation of the law, but because it was believed she possessed information which could possibly be used in the prosecution of another Negro."

"This Negro woman is alleged to have been compelled to lift her skirt, expose her nakedness and to have been whipped in shifts of five minutes, alternating between five minutes of whipping and five minutes of rest."

"The law specifies how punishment shall be administered, and the law should be applied." Emmerich's editorial continued. "The old whipping post of the Dark Ages and the spirit of witchcraft of old has no place in our modern civilization."

"What is more," Emmerich said, "this practice of whipping prisoners is not limited to the Pike County Jail. There are other counties in Mississippi that are alleged to practice whipping and usually the whipping is administered at the whim of an individual or two."

Sheriff Promises Action After Woman Is Beaten In Jail

BY JAMES B. LAFOURCHE

McCOMB, Miss. —(ANP)—An unidentified 68-year-old Negro woman is said to have been beaten in jail here two weeks ago because she was thought to be in possession of information held vitally essential to the prosecution of another Negro.

The woman was alleged to have been severely lashed with a cat-o-nine-tails type of whip after being made to lift her skirt and expose her nakedness. The beatings were administered at intervals of five minutes, the latter time being allowed for a rest period.

The victim was described as being a "good woman, honest and inoffensive." The incident is said to add to the already long list of whippings of prisoners. Whites too, are said to have shared similar experiences.

Information was disclosed that the whipping of prisoners in numerous Mississippi counties is a very common thing. It was stated that in the courthouse at Magnolia, Miss., a whip is kept on hand for this purpose.

The white populace here is enraged at the beating of the aged woman and have asked that the matter be given wide publicity. No one here condones the practice of torturing prisoners to the extent that

beatings are mercilessly administered.

Sheriff Robert E. Lee when interviewed said:

"I have never ordered anyone to be whipped nor have I witnessed any whippings. However, I shall look diligently into the proposition and it shall be my constant aim in the future to see to it that the rights of all prisoners are protected and that the laws governing prisoners will be upheld."

Woman, 68,

Beaten in Jail

Aug. 13e

Citizens Outraged,

Probe Promised

MC COMBS, Miss. —(ANP)—An unidentified 68-year-old woman is said to have been beaten in jail here two weeks ago because she was thought to be in possession of information held vitally essential to the prosecution of another per-

son.

The aged woman was alleged to have been severely lashed with a cat-o-nine-tails type of whip after being made to lift her shirt and expose her nakedness. The beatings were administered at intervals of five minutes, the latter time being allowed for a rest period.

The victim was described as being a "good woman, honest and inoffensive." The incident is said to add to the already long list of whippings of prisoners. Whites too, are said to have shared similar experiences.

Whip in Courthouse

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13e 1949

Missouri

Protests Beating, Negro Student Is Jailed by Police

Daily Worker 13e.

New York.

ST. LOUIS Mo., June 15.—A 21-year-old Negro student is the latest victim of police terrorism against the Negro people here. Cecil G. Huggins, of 2726 Stoddard St., was charged with "resisting arrest and the police station, where Higgins disturbed the peace" after he was booked and thrown into jail voluntarily entered the 9th District for 12 hours until he furnished Police Station to report the unpro-~~\$500~~ \$500 bail. *6-16-49* voked brutal treatment he re- Mrs. Dorothy Forest, representative from police officer Masseytative of the Civil Rights Congress in the 9th Ward.

who appeared in court on Thurs-

Huggins, a Navy veteran and day morning with Huggins, char- high school graduate, is a studentacterized the incident as one of at Washington Technical School many in a long series aimed at in- where he is preparing for a pre-timidating the Negro people. She medical course. To pay his way called upon the citizens of St. through school he plays the piano Louis to send protests to Mayor and heads a band known as Doc Darst and the police Commis- Ceasar's Combo. On Tuesday eve- sioner. *13e* nning he was returning from book- The delegation which accom- a new job for the band, and panied Huggins also included V. stopped with some friends at the Belton, chairman of the 19th Ward B. & B. restaurant on Cardinal of the Progressive Party; William and Laclede, where the young Massingale, chairman of the 5th men ordered hamburgers and Ward; Mrs. Katherine Shryver, orange soda. *13e*

Huggins was standing near the door of the restaurant when two police officers entered. One of them turned to Huggins and knocked him down, warning him to stay out of the neighborhood or he would be beaten again. Since Huggins must pass through this part of town to get to and from work, he stopped at the 9th Dis-

trict police station to report the incident and ask that it not be repeated. *6-16-49*

COPS JAIL HIM

Officer Massey, who had ad- ministered the beating and threat, was called in and instructed to take Huggins to Homer G. Phillips Hospital. On the way to the hospital he was threatened again, to such a degree that when the doctor in charge asked him if he was hurt he answered no, even though his eye was swollen and his leg badly bruised. Thereupon officer Massey took him back to

**Musician Wins
Pittsburgh Lawyer
Brutality Case**

By DICK SMYTHE

NEW YORK—Assaulted by an off-duty policeman on the night of March 26, as he was about to mount the bandstand of the Shang-La Club in Astoria, L. I., N. Y., Bandleader Snub Moseley refused to accept the usual "police hearing."

The aggravated nature of the in-and-outing inflicted by several blowson was convicted in Brooklyn to the face and mouth by George County Court of "possession of burglar tools." The so-called dental treatment. The interest of civic organizations as well as the Musicians Union was aroused by Hardison in his studies at Manhattan Technical Institute. He was carrying them home when he was stopped and searched by Patrolman Carlson of the 79th Precinct. He had just left his mother, Mrs. Ethel Hardison, of 562 Lexington Avenue.

Rather than accept the usual "white-wash" of the incident by police authorities, Moseley retained the services of John D. Pharr Jr., of the law firm of Jackson and Pharr, who instituted a civic action suit in city court, New York County.

At the trial which took place in Trial Term, part 10, before Justice James J. Brady, the justice handed down a decision awarding the plaintiff a judgment for over \$700 Dec. 16.

Rap: Cop's Slapping Of Negro Youth

A Bronx delegation Saturday protested to the 48th Precinct, Bronx, the action of a policeman who last Monday stopped, searched and slapped a 19-year-old Negro youth who was walking home from a visit with relatives.

The youth, Paul Wright, was accompanied by a 14-year-old friend, when he was halted at 1:25 a.m. last Monday at Claremont Parkway and 171 Street, a few blocks from his home at 1491 Brook Ave. The policeman who stopped him had shield number 3295. *Thu. J. 20-49*

A protest meeting has been called for Wednesday at 8:30 p.m., at the American Labor Party club at 631 E. 169 St.

Jimcrow Justice Convicts Brooklyn Negro Veteran

Wed 3-9-49

By John Hudson Jones

New York

Daily Worker 3-9-49, 3-14-49

Anthony Hardison, a 25-year old Negro veteran, and student of radio and television

stove. But before he reached home 27 days later, he had been brutally beaten, arrested

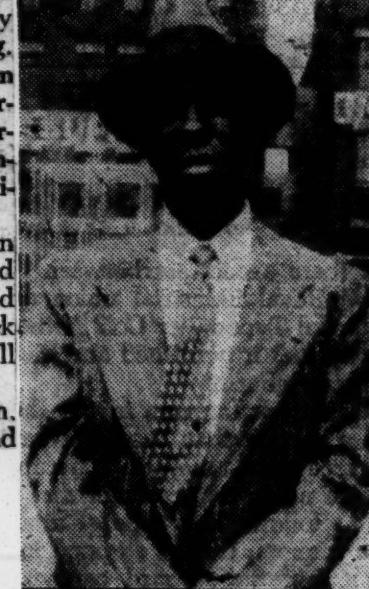
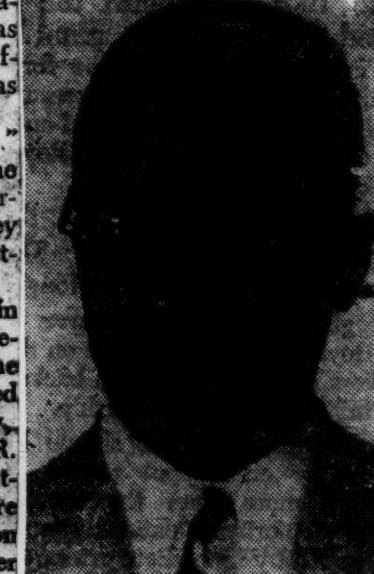
On the second day of the trial, defense witnesses and lawyers, and Judge Carmine J. Marasco sent attorney Jones to jail on a contempt up, the jury seeing the direction charge for almost half hour. The of the wind, quickly found Hardison guilty. The jury was composed of employees of Consolidated Edison, Brooklyn Union Gas Co., supervisors of the Board of Transportation and property owners.

Judge Marasco had constantly broken into the testimony of defense witnesses, but answered questions and made it generally easy for the policemen testifying.

At no time did the police even claim that any evidence of burglary was found in the neighborhood of Quincy Street and Sumner Avenue, the scene of Hardison's arrest.

Hardison testified that when Carlson stopped him and accused him of being a burglar, he asked the cop "to come on and go back to my mother's house, and you'll see I just left there."

However, Carlson told him, Hardison declared, "Go on and



ANTHONY HARDISON

Hardison has not yet been sentenced, but can get up to five years.

This is what happened to one Negro veteran. What will now happen to his three-months old child? How will young Mrs. Hardison get along? Is this the Negro veteran's reward for service to his country? Has Southern "justice" come to Brooklyn? What about his career in radio and television for which he so eagerly prepared? These are the facts and some questions on the Hardison case.

SAYS HE'S INNOCENT

"I'm not guilty and I'm not afraid to stand trial," the young veteran declared.

But this is the way "justice" worked during Hardison's three-day trial:

TOM JONES

"Run, you black b----, and I'll shoot you." The cop refused to go back to Mrs. Hardison to verify the veteran's story. Instead he arrested him.

And after the intimidation of

Attacks on Negroes By Police Charged

N.A.C.P. to Ask Dewey
For Impartial Inquiry

Negroes in this city have no redress in cases of "unwarranted attacks" by members of the Police Department, it was charged yesterday at a press conference of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, 20 West Fortieth Street. It was also announced that Governor Thomas E. Dewey, who returns today from a tour of Europe, will be asked to appoint a special commission to conduct "an impartial and thorough inquiry" in specific cases recorded by the N.A.C.P.

The conference was called by the national office on behalf of its New York and Brooklyn branches. Speakers at the conference charged that not only is it impossible to obtain the conviction of officers accused of police brutality, but that more often than not complainants are convicted on charges "trumped up by accused officers as a part of their defense."

Charles Levy, executive secretary of the New York branch, discussed a list of cases which had been "whitewashed" either in the courts or at disciplinary hearings of the Police Department.

Samuel Korb, a member of the legal redress committee of the Brooklyn branch, discussed the fatal shooting of Herman Newton, twenty-two, of 617 Halsey Street, Brooklyn, by Patrolman Donald Mullen, during an argument Memorial Day evening at the intersection of Quincy Street and Sumner Avenue, Brooklyn.

Mr. Newton and the patrolman were driving in separate cars and an argument ensued when Mr. Newton allegedly tried to pass Mr. Mullen's car. The policeman was off duty and in civilian clothes. The case is under investigation by the Brooklyn Grand Jury, but no charges have been preferred against the officer.

James A. Powers, president of the Brooklyn branch, has written to Governor Dewey requesting designation "of an extraordinary grand jury and of a special prosecutor" to supersede Miles F. McDonald, District Attorney of Kings County, in this and other cases.

13e 1949

North Carolina

Negroes Stage *The Worker* Boycott Over Cop Brutality

NY 1130
GREENVILLE, N.C. — The Negro people of this eastern North Carolina black-belt town are fighting back against Jim Crow.

Sun 4-3-49
On February 2, George Raymond Whitfield, a young Negro veteran, was waiting for a young lady in the lobby of a movie theatre in the Negro section of town. He was rudely ordered to leave by the white theatre manager. Whitfield replied he would leave when he met the girl he was waiting for. The theatre manager called two cops and the three of them drove Whitfield to the city jail. He was told to get out of the car and was knocked cold as he stepped from the door.

He gained consciousness several hours later in jail with his head badly beaten. In spite of pleas by his family physician he was refused medical treatment. As a result one of his eyes is probably permanently damaged.

13e
Mr. Whitfield was tried on three charges: (1) trespassing, for which he was fined \$15.00, (2) resisting arrest, 60 days in jail and (3) assaulting an officer, 90 days in jail. The case was appealed and is pending.

Meanwhile people in the Negro community from various organizations and clubs, sparked by members of local 10, FTA-CIO, staged a one-week boycott of the theatre which was one hundred per cent effective. Meetings of Negro citizens were held and a letter was sent to the head of the theatre chain in Raleigh demanding that he fire his manager in Greenville. After the boycott a theatre official arrived, fired the brutal manager and replaced him with a local Negro respected in the community.

Beaten Blind by Police, Man Sues for \$100,000

Baltimore Maryland
Asks Relief in Federal Court on Grounds

Constitutional Rights Had Been Violated

MEMPHIS — (AP) — Beaten blind by West Memphis, Ark., police officers on last Jan. 1, Jack Bunn Jr., of Memphis last week filed a suit in Federal court for \$100,000 in damages against the four of its police officials.

The suit sets forth that Bunn's constitutional rights and the civil liberties statutes were violated by his arrest, beating in jail, fine and imprisonment of charges of being drunk and disorderly.

His petition contends that although he was "not guilty" of charges, he was not allowed counsel or given an opportunity to testify before he was held in jail for a month and also forced to pay \$3.75 in order to get his release.

Bunn suffered a possible skull fracture after being beaten on the head "with a pistol, blackjack, night stick or other instrument," he will stated.

As a result of the beating, it set forth, "his brain was permanently injured and for several days he was rendered unconscious to the extent that he wandered about in dazed condition." In addition, his eyes were beaten until he had only limited vision in one eye and practically none in the other.

Impairment was also listed in the complaint, together with the fact that the man "suffered existing mental and physical pain and anguish and will continue to suffer same, probably permanent."

**Officers Indicted
for Beating Negro
Who Escaped Jail**

Memphis, April 8 (AP) — A grand jury today indicted six peace officers on charges they beat a Negro prisoner, who was rearrested after escaping.

They were charged with violating a civil-rights statute.

Indicted were Sheriff Charles P. Forbes of Tipton County; Deputy Sheriff Jesse Sanders; Jim T. Scott, marshal of Covington, Tenn., at the time of the alleged incident, and Assistant Marshals Robert Gift, Vernon

PRISONER TESTIFIES

W. Pickens, and Charles Deveral.

The Negro was John Wesley Scott, who now is serving a prison term for housebreaking and larceny.

He had complained that he was

mistreated December 5, 1947. He

had escaped jail while awaiting trial. Later, he was sentenced to seven years' imprisonment.

Under cross examination, Doctor Walsh said the hospital's original records showed Scott's eye was injured by a sharp instrument.

SCOTT NAMES BLACKJACK

Scott accused Gift of beating him

with a blackjack and putting his

eye out. He accused Pickens of sup-

plying Gift with the blackjack

which Gift used in beating him,

and then of holding a gun on him

while Gift struck him repeatedly

across the head and in the eye. He

did not accuse the other defendants

of taking part in the beating.

Another government witness was

James Jackson, 43, serving 10 to 20

years at Ft. Pillow for second degree

murder. Jackson, who was in the

Covington jail at the time Scott

said he was beaten, testified that

he heard Forbes cursing Scott and

Scott begging the sheriff not to beat

him any more.

Incidentally, Pickens, during his

testimony said there was no occa-

sion to strike Scott because he "did

not accuse" the three men whom Scott did not give us any trouble when they

not accuse were dismissed Tuesday arrested him.

The lawyer for the other three

defendants argued that the case

against them should be dismissed

for two reasons. (1) there is no

substantial evidence that these de-

fendants under color of office wil-

fully deprived Scott of any rights

under the Constitution of the Uni-

ited States; (2) the testimony of the

witness, Scott, is so inherently im-

probable and incredible that it

so severely he lost an eye.

Government witnesses were ex-

pected to end their testimony today.

On the stand yesterday, the Ne-

gro, 34, and John Wesley Scott,

pointed out Tipton County Sheriff

C. P. Forbes and Robert Gift, city

marshal of Covington. He said they

were the men who slugged him with

blackjacks, smashing his left eye.

The Negro said he was beaten

when he was recaptured after break-

ing out of the Tipton County Jail,

where he was awaiting trial.

The four others involved in the

suit are Assistant City Marshal Ver-

non W. Pickens, Chief Deputy Sherif-

iff Jesse Sanders, Deputy Aubrey

Deveral and Jim T. Scott, former

city marshal, now a deputy warden

at the state prison in Nash-

ville.

Mr. Farnsworth reportedly made

the motion to dismiss the suits

against Jim T. Scott, former Cov-

ington city marshal and now as-

sistant warden at the state peni-

tennary in Nashville; Jesse Sanders,

chief deputy sheriff of Tipton

County; and Aubrey Deveral, Cov-

ington city marshal, as the govern-

ment rested its case.

Judge Boyd agreed to the dismis-

sal motion. Shortly after this, L.

B. Gwin, attorney for all six de-

fendants, made a motion for dis-

missal of the charges against the

other three: Tipton County Sheriff

Charles P. Forbes, Vernon W. Pic-

kens, former assistant city marshall

and one-time deputy sheriff, and

Robert Gift, city marshall.

DR. JOHN K. WALSH TESTIFIES

Dr. John K. Walsh, former as-

sistant resident physician at John

Gaston Hospital, followed Scott to

the stand and told the jury a blow

of medium or great force injured

Scott's eye so seriously it had to be

removed. The physician said he ex-

amined Scott's eye after he entered the Memphis hospital, and assisted with the operation. The eye was bruised, both lids were swollen shut, the cornea had a large "star-like" tear across it and the iris, or colored portion, was protruding partially through the wound, the doctor said.

Pickens denied having held a gun on Scott while Gift beat him. Sheriff Forbes also denied having beaten Scott and said that he had gone down to the jail for "a short time to talk with Scott about his jail break, asking him why he did it. He did not remember Scott's answer, he said.

SCOTT NAMES BLACKJACK

Scott accused Gift of beating him with a blackjack and putting his eye out. He accused Pickens of supplying Gift with the blackjack which Gift used in beating him, and then of holding a gun on him while Gift struck him repeatedly. Scott begged the sheriff not to beat him any more.

It was evidently on this ground that the three men whom Scott did not give us any trouble when they not accuse were dismissed Tuesday arrested him.

The lawyer for the other three Great public interest in the trial manifested in Memphis.

Officers On Trial

MEMPHIS, June 14 (AP) — Federal grand jury today indicted six Tennessee law officers charged with depriving a Negro prisoner of his constitutional rights and beating him so severely he lost an eye.

Government witnesses were expected to end their testimony today.

On the stand yesterday, the Negro, 34, and John Wesley Scott, pointed out Tipton County Sheriff C. P. Forbes and Robert Gift, city marshal of Covington. He said they were the men who slugged him with blackjacks, smashing his left eye.

The Negro said he was beaten when he was recaptured after breaking out of the Tipton County Jail, where he was awaiting trial.

The four others involved in the suit are Assistant City Marshal Vernon W. Pickens, Chief Deputy Sheriff Jesse Sanders, Deputy Aubrey Deveral and Jim T. Scott, former city marshal, now a deputy warden at the state prison in Nashville.

Six Officers Tried On Charge Of Depriving Negro Of His Rights

MEMPHIS, June 13 (AP) — Six law officers went on trial in Federal Court today on charges that they deprived a Negro prisoner of his constitutional rights.

The Negro, John Wesley Scott, testified that two of the men — Sheriff Charles P. Forbes of Tipton County and City Marshal Robert Gift of Covington, Tenn. — beat him so badly his left eye had to be removed.

Scott now is serving a three-year sentence on a conviction of housebreaking and larceny.

He testified that he escaped the Tipton County Jail, hitting a trusty former city marshal, while awaiting trial. The alleged beating, he will say, followed his recapture in De-

membrer, 1947. The other four officers on trial are Assistant City Marshal Vernon W. Pickens, Chief Deputy Sheriff Jesse Sanders, Deputy Sheriff Aubrey Deveral and Jim T. Scott, former city marshal, now a deputy warden at the state prison in Nashville.

Reportedly blind in one eye and serving a seven year sentence in Fort Pillow Prison, after being com-

mitted to the state prison in Nash-

ville.

The other four officers on trial

are Assistant City Marshal Vernon W. Pickens, Chief Deputy Sheriff Jesse Sanders, Deputy Sheriff Aubrey Deveral and Jim T. Scott, former city marshal, now a deputy warden at the state prison in Nashville.

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are Assistant City Marshal Vernon W. Pickens, Chief Deputy Sheriff Jesse Sanders, Deputy Sheriff Aubrey Deveral and Jim T. Scott, former city marshal, now a deputy warden at the state prison in Nashville.

Chicago, Ill., has still been able to bring charges and cause the indictment of the sheriff of Tipton County and five other officers of this rural cotton county of West Tennessee.

Sheriff Charles P. Forbes and the five other men were indicted Friday, April 8, by a federal grand jury on a charge of violation of the Civil Rights and Domestic Violence statute.

The charge grew out of Scott's complaint that he had been beaten and deprived of his civil rights by the officers.

The other men indicted include, Jesse Sanders, deputy sheriff, Jim T. Scott, who was city marshal at the time Scott claimed he was mistreated but has since been appointed assistant warden at a state prison... Robert Gift, assistant city marshal of Covington, Vernon W. Pickens, assistant marshal and Charles Develor or Deveral, assistant city marshal.

The men were summoned to a federal court hearing in Memphis as witnesses, but on advice of their attorney L. E. Gwinn, refused to sign waivers of immunity. They were not called before the grand jury to testify.

The grand jury was called in special session to hear the case of the six officers and no other case was taken up. During the three hours and a half session, the six men were outside the jury room.

The jury's indictment of the men followed. The indictment accuses them of "wilfully subjecting and wilfully causing to be subjected John Wesley Scott... to the deprivation of certain rights, privileges and immunities, secured and protected to (him) by the Constitution and laws of the United States to wit:

"The right to be sure in his person and to be immune from illegal assault and battery, the right and privilege to be immune while in custody of persons acting under color of laws and statutes of Tennessee, from illegal assault and battery by any person exercising the authority of said state and city of Covington."

The indictment further states that on or about December 5, 1947, Scott was beaten, hit and had inflicted upon him physical injury and damage and a former resident of Memphis during his early boyhood days; Russ Cowan, of the Chicago Defender and former managing editor of the Michigan Chronicle.

There were also on hand a large bevy of local guests, including Dr. A. L. Johnson, president of the Bluff City Medical Society which is now in the midst of a campaign to obtain a City Hospital under supervision of a Negro medical staff; Joseph Nelson, manager of Foote Homes; Attorney Benjamin Hooks, who recently passed the bar to practice law in Memphis; Mrs. Alura G. Stans who a few weeks ago was elected president of the National Beauty Shop Owners Association during its annual convention in Los Angeles, California; Dr. and Mrs. Cooper Taylor, Rev. Roy Love and Mr. Wendell A. Haynes, president and Mr. Johnson, express appreciation to Chief Armour of the Memphis Police Department for making it possible for the police-men to attend the luncheon.

Other participants on the program were Calvin W. Rolard, who led the audience in singing the "National Anthem" and G. R. Lawrence, secretary of Lauderdale Branch YMCA. B. C. Duncan had charge of the menu.

Three Of Six Memphis Officers Freed Of Negroes' Charges

MEMPHIS, June 14—(AP)—Charges against three of six Tennessee law officers accused of depriving a Negro prisoner of his constitutional rights were dismissed today. Federal Judge Marion S. Boyd dismissed the charges on the surprise motion of U. S. Attorney Thomas Farnsworth. The six are from Covington and Tipton County. Freed were Chief Deputy Sheriff Jesse Sanders, Deputy Sheriff Aubrey Deveral and Jim T. Scott, former city marshal and now deputy warden at the state penitentiary in Nashville. Boyd denied a defense motion for the release of the other three defendants—Sheriff C. P. Forbes, City Marshall Robert Gift and Assistant Marshal Vernon W. Pickens. The three denied in testimony today that they abused the prisoner, 34-year-old John Wesley Scott.

Three Of Six White Officers Dismissed In Case Involving Putting Out Prisoner's Eye

Despite the unusual action of a Negro prisoner's filing in open court and directly accusing a law enforcement officer of having put out his eye, and accusing the other officers of having assisted in the brutal beating he said he received it appeared Tuesday of this week that little would come of the Federal Court trial of six Covington

Tipton County, Tenn., officers who were indicted on charges of having deprived the prisoner of his civil rights by beating and accusing him.

In a startling and unexpected action, U. S. Attorney Thomas Farnsworth Tuesday asked Federal Judge Marion Boyd to dismiss the complaint against three of the six Tipton County and Covington officers.

Mr. Farnsworth reportedly made the motion to dismiss the suit against Jim T. Scott, former Covington city marshal and now assistant warden at the state penitentiary in Nashville; Jesse Sanders, chief deputy sheriff of Tipton County; and Aubrey Deveral, Covington city marshall, as the govern-

Police Brutality Proved in Protest To City Council

The Houston Sun. 5-22-49

13e New York, N.Y.

HOUSTON, Tex.—An inter-racial delegation of 15, organized by the Civil Rights Congress and the Progressive Party called upon the Houston City Council last week in protest against the growing threat on the lives of Negro

Houstonians by the city police. The delegation called the attention of the City's Fathers to the following acts of brutality against the Negro people:

(1) Mr. Louis Hurrington, 30, bleeding from a wound on his forehead, walked into the Police Station April 9th to report that he had just been struck across the head by a bus driver who slung his money changer at him. Instead of aiding Hurrington, the police took him back to the bus, beat him to a pulp, dragged him bleeding and half unconscious down the street and booked him on assault charges. He is so intimidated now that he won't press charges.

(2) Mr. John Batiest, a 77-year-old Negro man who has lived in Houston for 37 years, was riding the bus May 6th when a young white hoodlum got on and told him to get to the back of the bus. While the old man was slowly walking back, the white man struck him down, lacerating his face. A white couple who had befriended Batiest called the police to intervene. The police took the two men down to the station. There, they freed the white man after encouraging Batiest not to press charges. With the white hoodlum out, the police made no effort to protect Batiest and would never have booked his assailant if the NAACP had not intervened.

(3) Mr. Newton Veazy, 23, died from a blow on the head Feb. 8th—four days after he was released from the city jail. The youth's father found the funeral home ambulance driver intimidated and reluctant to tell where he picked Veazy up and in what condition

were subjected to, according to the account they related and now on NAACP files.

Lillie said he was beaten by several officers and jabbed with night sticks. When he attempted to ward off blows with his hands, they were pricked with knives. The blind veteran also pitifully said a pistol point was jammed into one of his ears and snapped.

The alleged Gestapo-like tactics hit the lowest low when Miss Holmes said after the deputies beat her they threatened to violate her womanhood with a night stick.

After Lillie displayed his wounds and recounted his experience with "peace officers," he cited his story to the District Attorney and Chief Investigator "Ug" Williams of the sheriff department.

PROMINENT FAMILY

Member of a prominent Houston family, the blind veteran has been operating a partnership beer parlor for several months. Industrious, he said he launched the venture to supplement the small compensation he was receiving. This, he added, to some degree enabled him to face inflationary living prices.

The blind veteran also reported that approximately \$75 were missing from his purse when the deputies finally permitted him to search for it. He is the brother of Otis Lillie, a War Department employee in Washington, and despite his handicap is one of the most popular businessmen in Sunny Side Addition.

Woman Partner Slugged, Insulted

13e

HOUSTON, Tex.—Harris County citizens were, this week, anxiously awaiting the grand jury's report on its investigation into the beating of George Ammon Lillie, 27-year-old blind veteran, who was beaten by deputies from the sheriff's office last week.

According to Lillie and Johnnie Mae Holmes, his business associate in operating a beer tavern, the blind man was beaten when he was unable to supply deputies with information on suspects sought in connection with the rape of a 16-year-old white girl.

NAZI TACTICS

Little, if anything under the Nazi heel surpassed the fiendish treatment that Lillie and his partner

13p 1949

Alabama

FOLSOM FORBIDS LASH IN ALABAMA'S PRISONS

13p
Series Of Other Reforms Are

Proclaimed By Governor

Commercial Appeal
Montgomery Journal
MONTGOMERY, Ala., April 14.—(AP)—Gov. James E. Folsom ordered the lash abolished in Alabama prisons Thursday. At the same time he proclaimed a long list of other reforms.

He instructed Prison Director Frank Boswell to expand the educational system in the prisons and ordered creation of a new Classification Bureau.

Floggings, for which Boswell has been severely criticized, will be permitted, the Governor said, only when absolutely necessary. Other forms of force must not be used, he added, except to prevent escapes or protect the life of a guard or other prison official.

Folsom also ordered Boswell to start immediately on plans to rebuild Atmore Prison, destroyed by fire several weeks ago. The prison director said he has already ordered materials for a new building and convicts will do the work as much as possible.

Here are the other reforms:

1. Trusties now assigned to the State Capitol will be removed from there except for a small squad working on the Capitol grounds under guard.

2. Prisoners will be allowed to visit their homes on week ends only with approval of the Parole Board.

3. Convicts will be forbidden to keep money with them.

4. Educational and training classes will be expanded so no prisoner serving a year or more will be allowed to leave without the opportunity of learning to read and write and to equip himself to make a living outside.

5. Gambling will be prohibited during work hours and during off hours when education, religious or work classes are being held.

5 Officers Who Beat Man Almost to Death Freed

13f *The Afro-American*
Baltimore Md. 1-22-49

Jury Takes Five Minutes to Render Verdict

in Fla. Rights Trial That Lasted Five Days

MIAMI—A jury of white Floridians took only five minutes, last Friday, to return a verdict acquitting five white policemen of charges of beating a colored prisoner almost to death with a leather strap to make him confess to the theft of cigarettes.

What had been widely heralded by the press as Miami's "first civil rights case" ended in a typical instance of Southern "justice" after a five-day trial before Federal Judge Alfred Barksdale of Lynchburg, Va., during which the jurist had dismissed defense's motion for a directed verdict of not guilty, due to "lack of evidence."

Testifying against the plaintiff, Alton Fowler, 22, were three colored residents of West Palm Beach, who told the jury that the victim of the brutal police beating was "a bad character."

Beaten on Rifle Range

Freed after denying charges of conspiring to beat Fowler, a caddy, suspect, stealing cigarettes from a railway box car in West Palm Beach, were the following officers of the law:

John T. Britt, Riviera Beach police chief; William M. Barnes, West Palm Beach law officer; Euell M. Culbreth and Walter I. Minton, Palm Beach County deputies; and Worden A. Bader, special agent for the railroad. They were defended by Bart Riley, attorney.

Fowler testified that when he refused to confess the burglary, he was taken from jail to a rifle range by Barnes, Minton, Culbreth and Bader and made to lie face down. Minton stood on his hands and Culbreth stood on his feet, while Barnes beat him with a strap that was three or four feet long and one-fourth of an inch thick for longer than an hour, he said.

Hospitalized Six Days

"I thought they were going to kill me," he stated, so he confessed the theft, after which, he added, Minton kicked him in the stomach. Two days later, his condition became so bad from the wounds he had received that he was taken to Pine Ridge Hospital, where he remained for almost a week. *Sab. 1-22-49*

During the officers' trial, testi-

Fla. Officers Accused in Beating Case

TAMPA, Fla. (P)—Four law-enforcement officers in Polk County were arrested yesterday on Federal indictments charging that they beat up two Negro prisoners in violation of the Negroes' civil rights.

13f Jun. 7-26-49
U. S. Dist. Atty. Herbert S. Phillips identified the men as Police Chief William C. Brock, Sr., of Mulberry; Police Chief William H. DeVault, of Bartow; Roscoe W. Thornhill, a Bartow policeman, and Paul Jennings, of Lakeland, Polk County deputy sheriff.

They posted a \$1,000 bond apiece and were released. No date has been set for trial.

Phillips said one man was beaten so badly with a rubber hose and fists that he had serious internal injuries, including kidney hemorrhages, and was unable to walk for weeks.

**Negro Prisoner
Reported Killed
in Georgia Jail**

Manchester, Ga., Feb. 28 (UPI)—A Negro war veteran, allegedly shot three times in the back behind a locked jail door by city officers, died yesterday in a hospital at nearby LaGrange, Ga., it was reported today.

The officers, Policeman C. H. Rogers and a fireman Fulton Avery, said the prisoner, Sam Terry, 37, was shot when he attacked them with a pocket knife as they tried to lock him up.

Terry's widow, Minnie Kate Terry, also arrested, denied Terry resisted arrest, and declared he only pleaded with the officers when they shoved her into a police car. Terry was ill with mumps, she said. 3-1-49

M. L. ST. JOHN

Georgia's Prisoners Are Trustworthy

Atlanta Constitution

Georgia, which once was notorious for its cruel chain gangs, today is working half of its county works prisoners on their honor instead of with guns, stripes, leg irons and whips. Nearly half of the 4,600 prisoners in county work camps are trusties. That's twice as large a percentage of trusties as any other Southern State, according to J. B. Hatchett, Assistant State Director of Corrections.

Just back from Little Rock, Ark., where he attended the Southern Prison and Parole Conference meetings, Hatchett says that Georgia has the finest prison system in the South and one of the best in the nation.

A veteran in penal affairs, Hatchett observes that the large percentage of trusties in Georgia is necessary because of the mechanization of road maintenance. Years ago, prisoners worked the roads with picks and shovels. They were concentrated in small groups. They were clad in stripes and wore chains. Guards armed with shotguns stood near by. Today, prisoners are operating tractors and other road machinery. They cannot be concentrated in small groups. They are no longer wearing stripes and leg irons. Guards carry pistols rather than shotguns to watch over those who are not trusties. Nearly half of the prisoners are trusties.

This improved humane treatment of prisoners is making Georgia prisoners more trustworthy than in the days when they were caged as animals, Hatchett reports. Because of the high percentage of such prisoners able to walk in and out of the prison gates, Georgia has a larger percentage of escapes than some other States. However, it is compensated by the fact that its rehabilitation of all prisoners is better. Under the trusty system, a prisoner is able to readjust himself to useful life when he is released.

This high percentage of trusties doesn't extend into the Georgia State Prison at Tattnall. Of the 1,350 inmates there, only about 15 percent are trusties. The reason: Most hardened criminals are sent to Tattnall for confinement behind the walls, instead of to county public work camps.

Hatchett found that Georgia is the only Southern State which uses neither stripes, shackles nor whips. Some other States have eliminated one or two of these methods, but not all three. Georgia doesn't use prisoners as guards over other prisoners, as three other Southern States do.

Georgia's experiment in a juvenile honor camp—which doesn't have any armed guards at all—is attracting national attention, Hatchett learned. At Rome, about 250 white and Negro boys and Negro women occupy honor camps and do work for the Battey Tuberculosis Hospital. Juveniles in Tattnall work to earn the privilege of going to Rome. Few escape from Rome or have to be sent back to Tattnall.

What Georgia needs, Hatchett says, is another institution for juveniles who are not trustworthy enough to go to Rome, but who should be segregated from older criminals at Tattnall. Sun-5-1-49

After six years of penal reform and with the results showing the reformation of such characters as Leland Harvey, D. C. Black and Forrest

Atlanta Georgia

Turner, Georgia's reputation for its chain gang of long ago should be erased. Georgia today stands in the forefront in the nation in its treatment of prisoners. It still has far to go in providing vocational training, recreation and segregation for the prisoners. But it has come a long way from the days when prisoners—housed in portable cages, wearing chains and stripes and beaten with whips—broke their own legs or cut their heel straps to cripple themselves so as to keep from being worked hard by vicious guards.

13f 1949

PRISONER'S DEATH SAID DUE TO HEAT

Jones Accusation
Wiggins Denies Legalized
Murder Charge

13f
(The Associated Press)
Parchman, Miss., March 11.—
The death of a Negro prisoner
here last July—called “legalized
murder” by a state senator—was
due to heat exhaustion, not who-
ping, prison Supt. Marvin Wig-
gins said Friday afternoon.

The “legalized murder” asser-
tion was made by State Sen. Earl
Evans of Canton. He based it on
the examination of the body of
Leroy Pierce, 24, and a report on
Pierce’s death sent him by State
Sen. Fred Jones, chairman of the
Senate penitentiary committee.

“The coroner’s report and the
testimony of two physicians at
the inquest lists the death as
being caused by heat exhaust-
ion,” Wiggins said. “Anything
beyond that official report would
be surmise or imagination—per-
haps imagination would be a bet-
ter word for it.”

Wiggins said he was not at
Parchman when the death oc-
curred, and received a report on it
on his return.

Several of the charges in Sen.
Jones’ report were news to him,
he said. He added he intends to
get in touch with Jones for more
information and then would de-
cide whether to investigate fur-
ther. He did not say which of the
charges were new.

Pierce, who entered the peni-
tentiary five days before his death
July 29, was serving a four-year
term for manslaughter. He died
while working in the prison cot-
ton field.

Jones’ report said he had been
beaten on the first and third days
after reporting to the field, and
that shortly after the second
whipping he became heat crazed
and died. The report said that
“only poor judgment” can be
blamed for the death, however,
since Mississippi law coun-
tenances such beatings.

Evans said he had the body ex-
amined by a physician, an under-
taker, and the sheriff of Madi-
son county. All agreed, he re-
ported, that the body bore marks
of severe handling and substan-
tiated Jones’ findings.

“It looks like legalized murder,”
Evans declared. “The only place
to correct it is in the Legislature.
I intend to ask for a ban on these
legal whippings and substitution
of solitary confinement.”

Evans said Pierce, who had

Mississippi

worked in cotton fields all of his
life, was a six-foot, 190-pound
man “in perfect physical condi-
tion.” *Set-3-12-49*

Jones criticized many of the
prison camp personnel in general
terms, charging that many of the
sergeants were “prejudiced, with
cruel and vengeful hearts.” But
the only thing the prisoners can
do under the present law, he add-
ed, “is to submit to whatever
punishment or burden the ser-
geant sees fit to administer.”

13f

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~~John - American~~ 6 Memphis Officers Indicted for Beating Prisoner in '47

MEMPHIS—A Federal grand jury indicted six police officers here last Friday on charges of mistreating John Wesley Scott, now serving not more than seven years' imprisonment for housebreaking and larceny.

Scott, who was found guilty by a Tipton County Circuit Court jury, March 9, 1948, charged that he was mistreated by the officers on Dec. 5, 1947, after being re-arrested following his escape from the county jail at Covington.

Officers Tried:

For Rights Denial

MEMPHIS—Six law officers went on trial in Federal Court yesterday on charges they deprived a Negro prisoner of his constitutional rights.

The Negro, John Wesley Scott, testified that two of the men—Sheriff Charles P. Forbes, of Tipton County, and City Marshal Robert Gift, of Covington, Tenn., beat him so badly his left eye had to be removed.

Scott now is serving a three-to-seven-year sentence on a conviction of housebreaking and larceny.

He testified that he escaped the Tipton County jail, biting a trusty with a broom handle, while awaiting trial. The alleged beating, he said, followed his recapture in December, 1947.

Half-Blinded Prisoner Puts Finger on Tenn. Sheriff

'He Put My Eye Out,' John Wesley Scott

Tells All-White Jury Which Fails to Agree

another n— and he struck you in

MEMPHIS, Tenn.—Stammering the eye."

from weariness and excitement, Dr. John K. Walsh, assistant John Wesley Scott, 34, half-blinded resident in Ophthalmology at John prisoner, told a Federal Court jury Gaston Hospital where Scott was of 12 white men, here, last week, operated on after the beating, testified that the sheriff and five other officers threatened to "kill me" if he told the truth about how they beat the iris protruding through the wound." He said the injury was evidently caused by a blunt instrument used with great force.

After deliberating 8½ hours, the jury failed to agree on conviction of the six men, who were charged with denying Scott his Constitutional rights under the 14th Amendment.

All of the accused men denied the charges. One of them, Assistant City Marshal Deveral, was present when Sheriff Forbes beat him, Scott testified.

Judge Marion S. Boyd presided at the trial.

While awaiting trial in Covington County jail on Dec. 5, 1947, Scott was beaten into insensibility and lost one of his eyes as a result of the brutal treatment. He pointed out Robert Gift, city marshal of Covington, as the man who knocked his eye out, testifying:

"It was Mr. Bob Gift who put my eye out . . . It was Mr. Bob Gift . . . Mr. Bob Gift did it . . ."

The other officers who faced trial were Sheriff Charles P. Forbes, of Tipton County; Jim T. Scott, former city marshal, now deputy warden at state penitentiary in Nashville; Vernon W. Pickins, former assistant city marshal; Jesse Sanders, chief deputy sheriff; and Aubrey Deveral, assistant city marshal. All are white.

Scott testified that first Gift beat him over the head with a blackjack and injured his left eye so badly that it had to be removed later and then, after he had crawled to his bed in the jail and lay there bleeding, Sheriff Forbes beat him for about 20 minutes.

Scott told the jury that the officers left him with his eye protruding out of its socket, and advised him, "Go to the hospital, don't tell any damn lies; tell him you got into a fight in the jail with